REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above, the Examiner objected to claims 1-18 because of informalities and rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Block et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0050976).

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 and added new claims 19-24. Claims 1-24 are pending. Based on the following reasoning, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 .

I.   The Rejection of Claims 1-18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Block et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), each and every element as set forth in the claims must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Block et al. fails to teach each and every recitation of claims 1-18.

Claim 1 recites "[a] community based collaborative knowledge system which can be connected to a plurality of client terminals via a network including, *inter alia*, "... determining accessible virtual community for each of the client terminals using a combination of the community type and member type for each virtual community as an access destination, and providing a window which allows each of the client terminals to access the accessible virtual community."

These elements of claim 1 are in no way disclosed or suggested by Block et al. Block et al. teaches a website structure for populating the registration database of a

website, and for providing access to information contained within various community

areas that comprise the website. Block et al. further discloses that:

> "[r]eferring now to FIG. 1, a block diagram 100 is shown of certain representative
> elements comprising a site map for the myteam.com website. There are two broad
> areas to the site. The first area has general content material, which is accessible by
> visitors to the myteam.com website. The second area is comprised of Home pages,
> which are generally accessible only by members. To a limited degree, however, a
> visitor can see information on these pages."

See Block et al., abstract and paragraph 90. However, Block et al. fails to teach or

suggest at least "determining accessible virtual community for each of the client

terminals using a combination of the community type and member type for each virtual

community as an access destination, and providing a window which allows each of the

client terminals to access the accessible virtual community," as recited in claim 1

(emphasis added). That is, Block et al. does not suggest a technique of creating and

providing a window with respect to each user, which displays only virtual communities

that are accessible. In other words, although access authority can be managed in Block

et al., there may be cases where a user attempts to make access to a virtual community

but is denied.

Claims 7 and 13, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that

discussed above with regard to claim 1. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to

withdraw the rejection of claims 7 and 13 for at least the same reasons discussed above

with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend from claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively. As

explained, claims 1, 7, and 13 recite elements not disclosed by Block et al. Accordingly,

claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are allowable over Block et al. for at least the same reasons

as claims 1, 7, and 13. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II.   New Claims 19-24.

Claim 19 recites "[a] community based collaborative knowledge system which can be connected to a plurality of client terminals via a network," including *inter alia*, "summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics." These elements of claim 19 are in no way disclosed or suggested by Block et al. Block et al. discloses a website structure for populating the registration database of a website, and for providing access to information contained within various community areas that comprise the website that "… provide a method of sharing information between a large number of persons who might be interested in one topic." *See* Block et al., paragraph 13. However, Block et al. does not teach or suggest at least "summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics," as recited in claim 19.

Claims 21 and 23, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 19. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to allow claims 21 and 23 for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 19.

Claim 20 recites "[a] community based collaborative knowledge system which can be connected to a plurality of client terminals via a network," including *inter alia*, "... providing a search list consisting of message search results that browse authority of the given client terminal as the search request source can cover messages which match the search result on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search, and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community." These elements of claim 20 are in no way disclosed or suggested by <u>Block et al.</u> <u>Block et al.</u> discloses a website structure for populating the registration database of a website, and for providing access to information contained within various community areas that comprise the website that "... provide a method of sharing information between a large number of persons who might be interested in one topic." *See* <u>Block et al.</u>, paragraph 13. However, <u>Block et al.</u> does not teach or suggest at least "providing a search list consisting of message search results that browse authority of the given client terminal as the search request source can cover messages which match the search result on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search, and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community," as recited in claim 20.

Claims 22 and 24, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 20. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to allow claims 22 and 24 for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 20.

New claims 19-24 recite elements neither taught nor suggested by <u>Block et al.</u>
Accordingly, claims 19-24 are allowable over <u>Block et al.</u>

III.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 18, 2005   By:_____
                                         Milan Kapadia
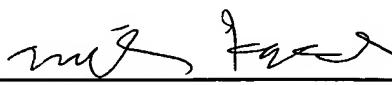
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